

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. No claims have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-27 are now presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection*Tajima, Milne and Burns*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tajima et al., JP-6169440 ("Tajima"), in view of Milne et al., US. 2002/0180890 ("Milne") and in further view of Burns, U.S. Patent No. 6,630,964 ("Burns"). This rejection is essentially the same as the previous one except that the Examiner has now made it final and added Burns to show data and control buses.

The new Burns reference makes no suggestion that it may be adapted for use with a modular tuner cartridge.

Tajima and Milne have been discussed previously. Recapping Tajima, it shows exchangeable modules in the form of a bare PC board with a connector at one end. The modules and the connector are described only vaguely (Applicants cite herewith a computer generated translation of the reference provided by the Japanese Patent Office). In the circuit diagram, each module receives a tuner connection 71 and produces audio to the speaker 61 and video to the picture tube 11. The only description of control functions would appear to rely on receiving IR remote control signals at eye 213. The module even has a power switch 211 and display 214.

The problem with the Tajima description is that a set of independent modules with their own remote control codes, displays and power switches is unlikely to present

an integrated feel to the end user. Tajima lacks any detail to help a person of average skill in the art to integrate the modules together to provide a convenient user experience.

The present invention on the other hand, provides a solution to that problem. The first bus connector is like the antenna line from the antenna 71 in Tajima. The second bus connector allows for seamless integration of the tuner cartridge with the rest of the television system.

Against the second bus, the Examiner has cited Milne and Burns. Milne shows a modular chassis architecture. Burns shows buses that are designed so that the system can be built in different configurations. These references do not relate to cartridges and Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to adapt these flexible architectures to a tuner cartridge system as recited in the claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a tuner cartridge and the cartridge is recited in line 6 of the claim. Claims 9, 15 and 24 also refer to tuner cartridges.

Claim 9 is believed to be even more clearly allowable. In claim 9, specific features of the cartridge are called out, such as a housing, a protruding edge to engage a slot and bus connection fingers. These clearly distinguish the invention from the reference.

If the Examiner feels that the independent claims are too broad, then Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider claims 6, 11-14 which refer to specific details of the fingers at the end of the cartridge

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

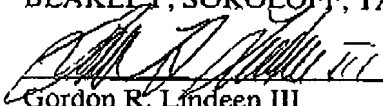
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Gordon R. Lindeen III
Reg. No. 33,192

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
(303) 740-1980
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